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PAKISTAN

Floods Leave 600,000 Homeless

A church gift of \$2,500 has been forwarded by the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches to aid victims of a flood in West Pakistan which this month devastated 5,000 square miles and left 600,000 persons homeless.

The Division appealed to eleven churches for additional help in the disaster, described as worse than the floods of 1955.

Early reports from the West Pakistan Christian Council said that both the Ravi and Chenab rivers had flooded and affected the areas around Lahore and the districts of Sialkot, Lyallpur, and Multan. Hundreds of villages were completely washed away. The council has sent a plea for wheat, butter, oil, blankets, clothing, vitamins and malaria and dysentery drugs.

First reports from the stricken area said that the Land Reclamation Project at Lahore was "a sorry sight, with six feet of water everywhere and all our crops gone completely. This damage is colossal and the need is staggering." Long-range help will be needed, West Pakistan church officials say, for the reconstruction of damaged wells, homes and churches. There was little loss of life in the area because the flood waters rose gradually.

E.P.S., Geneva

PAKISTAN

Christians Say Rights Are Being Violated

(Lahore) - Christian leaders have charged that the civil rights of Christians in West Pakistan are being violated.

Joshua Fazalud-Din, a Christian member of the West Pakistan legislative assembly, said he had received many reports that the enrolling staff was refusing to register Christians as voters for the coming general election. He quoted a letter from a church official in Montgomery district stating that not a single Christian in his village had been registered, and added that this was true in other places.

E.P.S., Geneva

COLOMBIAGovernment Decrees Church Rights

(Bogota) - Interior Minister José María Villareal instructed state governors on September 17 to extend full freedom of assembly and worship to Protestant sects throughout Colombia, according to a dispatch from United Press.

At the same time, Señor Villareal also directed the governors to facilitate the functioning of approximately fifty Protestant churches that are inactive or being hindered by local difficulties in various parts of the country.

E.P.S., Geneva

HUNGARYDanish Bishops and Pastors Oppose Death Sentence

The Danish Pastors' Association has sent a letter to Dr. Janos Horvath (head of the Hungarian Office of Church Affairs), protesting against the infliction of the sentence of death on Pastor Lajos Gulyas of the Reformed Church of Hungary, who was condemned to death on June 10 on a charge of "counter-revolutionary activities" (see EPS No. 24).

The letter reads, "We are deeply troubled by the severe sentence passed on a fellow-Protestant who did not carry arms. Our anxiety about the consequences which this might have on international understanding impels us to appeal to you personally, to do your utmost to have this sentence reconsidered."

A similar letter was sent to Dr. Horvath by the Danish Bishops, led by Dr. Fuglsang-Damgaard. Protests to Budapest are also being considered by the Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic pastors' associations.

E.P.S., Geneva

AUSTRIAThree Hundred Children Returned to Hungary

(Vienna) - Three hundred children who fled Hungary during last autumn's revolution have been returned to their parents in Hungary, according to a letter from Bishop Gerhard May, Evangelical bishop in Austria, to the Lutheran Church in Hungary.

Bishop May, replying to a request from the Hungarian Peace Committee asking the Austrian churches to do everything possible to return the children, pointed out that all children whose parents sent a written request for their return have been sent back to Hungary. He expressed his readiness to intervene in all cases where parents write genuine letters, with a confirmation from their local pastor. The bishop agreed that many children left Hungary looking for adventure and not for political reasons. He said that the Austrian government has tried to see that the children were returned to their homes in an orderly manner and that the Protestant Church had tackled the problem several times. He added that the Austrian government had invited parents to come from Hungary, at Austria's expense, to visit their children and decide on their future, but no parents have taken advantage of the offer, - or have been permitted to do so.

At the same time, Bishop May pointed out that there are still several hundred children under 14 in Hungary whose parents fled to other countries and who do not wish to return to Hungary. "These parents are naturally longing for their children to be allowed to join them in Austria, or wherever they are, so that the families may be reunited. The International Red Cross would be prepared to cooperate in a plan to reunite families living both in Hungary and in other countries as quickly as possible." Unfortunately, he continued, the Hungarian government could not see its way clear to make practical agreements with the Red

Cross so that children living in Hungary could join their parents abroad in the same way that the children living abroad joined their parents in Hungary.

This month, Bishop May and Bishop Lajos Ordass of the Lutheran Church in Hungary, in Vienna on his way back from the Lutheran World Assembly in the United States, went to the Austrian Home Office to discuss the concern of the Hungarian church with officials.

E.P.S., Geneva

INDIA

Assembly Passes School Control Bill

The Kerala Assembly has passed the bill sponsored by the Communist government that would place private schools in the state under state control (see EPS Nos. 33 and 34). Most of the private schools are operated by Protestant and Roman Catholic bodies. Christians and some Moslem and Hindu leaders attacked the bill as an attempt to regiment the country's educational system under a Communist pattern.

Education Minister Joseph Mundassery told the assembly that the bill was intended primarily to regulate teacher-management relations "so that the teacher may no longer be the slave of management". The measure provides not only for the nationalisation of private schools "where necessary", but stipulates that private schools permitted to continue functioning must choose their teachers from a government-approved list.

The bill still has to be signed by the state governor and President Rajendra Prasad of India and an opponent of the bill predicted that President Prasad might withhold his signature.

The Roman Catholic hierarchy of Kerala has already announced that it will continue its fight against the bill. Archbishop Roumald Athaide of Agra told a news conference that the title of the bill should be changed to "Penal Code against Private Agencies in the Field of Education".

E.P.S., Geneva

UNITED KINGDOM

Roman Catholic Archbishop Chairs Meeting Addressed by Anglican Archbishop

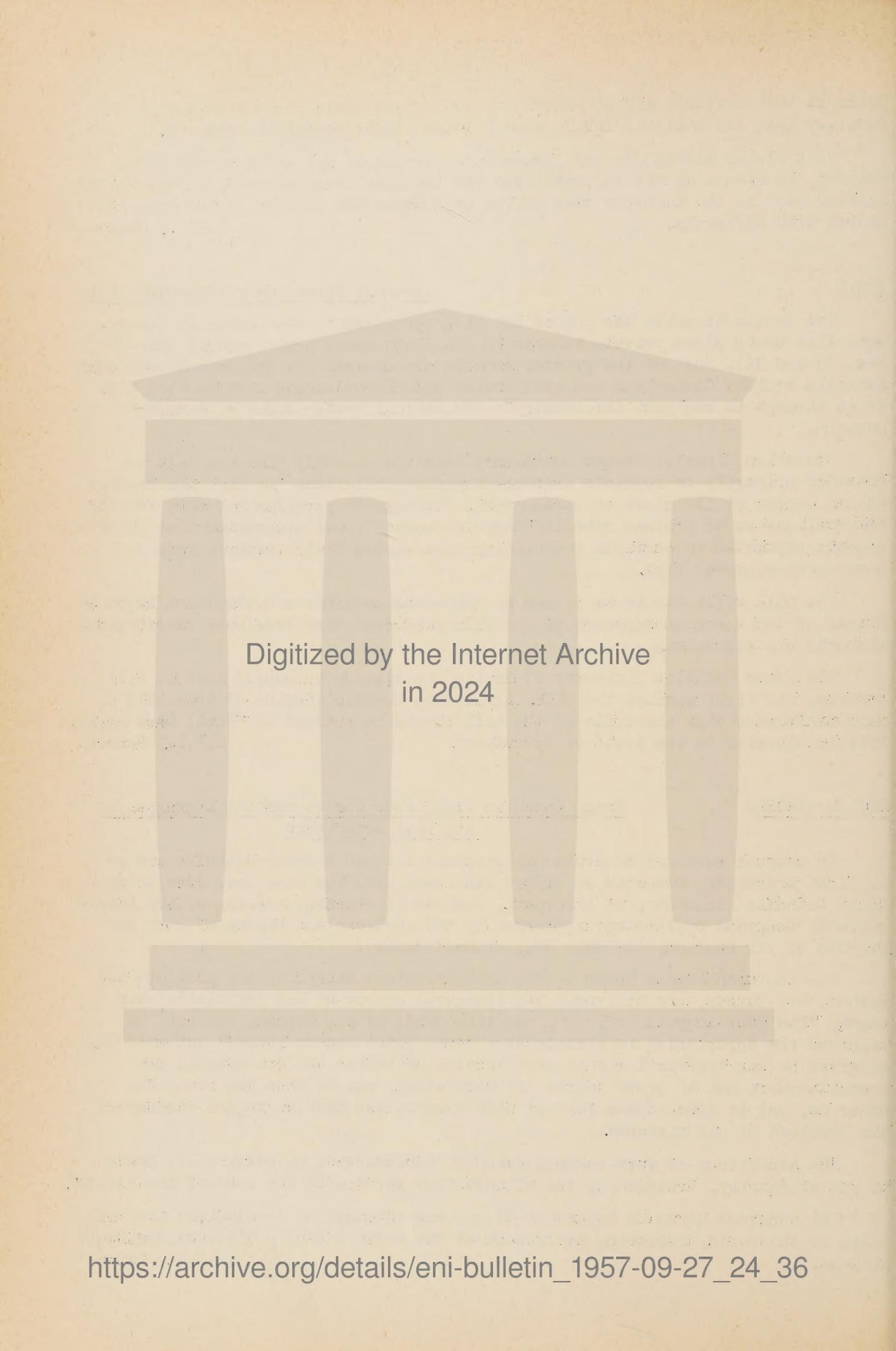
An unusual exchange of fraternal speeches between a Roman Catholic and an Anglican archbishop occurred at Oxford last week when the Most Rev. John Heenan, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, chaired the opening meeting of the International Congress on Theology addressed by the Anglican Archbishop of York and Primate of All England, the Most Rev. Michael Ramsey.

The two archbishops bowed to one another before ascending the platform together. Dr. Ramsey, who delivered the inaugural speech on the congress's main theme, "The Four Gospels in 1957", was introduced by Dr. Heenan, who said he regarded the opportunity to preside as a "very great honour indeed" and told the congress he was "particularly pleased because Catholics and Protestants are assembled here not to score points off each other, nor to show how wrong the other is, but to demonstrate for all with eyes to see that we regard charity as the greatest of all virtues".

The Archbishop of York acknowledged the introduction by calling Dr. Heenan "a man of charity, friendship, and of unselfish service to the good of the people".

The congress began on September 17 and was attended by theologians from all parts of the world, including professors of the Roman Catholic Biblical Institute at Rome.

E.P.S., Geneva



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CANADAWorld Baptists Called to Pray for Peace

(Hamilton) - Baptists throughout the world have been urged to join in "earnest and constant" prayer for peace and to continue their efforts on behalf of religious liberty "for all men". The call was issued in a "Message to the Baptist Family Scattered Over the Whole Earth" by the Baptist World Alliance executive committee meeting in Hamilton, Ontario.

In the statement, the 100 Baptist leaders also "rejoiced" in the proposed five-year Baptist Jubilee Advance, a world programme of evangelism from 1959 to 1964. The tenth Baptist World Congress will be held from June 26 to July 3, 1960, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the committee announced.

During the executive committee meeting, it was agreed to send three leading American physicians on a round-the-world tour of Baptist medical mission stations, beginning next spring. In other action the committee approved a request from Dr. W.L. Jarvis of Australia that a score or more outstanding ministers go to Australia to lead a continent-wide evangelistic campaign in 1958 or 1959. E.P.S., Geneva

ITALYCloser Cooperation between Waldensians and Methodists

(Torre Pellice) - Closer fellowship with the Methodist churches in Italy, endorsed at last year's Synod of the Waldensian Church of Italy, has now been implemented by a definite "plan of cooperation".

At its annual meeting in Torre Pellice, the Synod of the Waldensian Church recognised the community of faith existing between Waldensians and Methodists and instructed the Synod's executive (which bears the historic name of the "Tavola", table) to discuss practical cooperation with the standing committee of the Methodist Church. The Waldensian proposals include: mutual recognition of ministries, exchange of representatives at pastors' conferences, synods and other meetings of the other church, close cooperation in minority parishes, possible joint pastorates, the admission of Waldensians into Methodist church membership (and vice versa) where an area is served by a pastor of one church only.

The Waldensian Synod was told that the freedom for non-Roman Christians to practise their faith confirmed by the Italian Constitutional Court has greatly encouraged the Italian Protestants in their work (see EPS Nos. 12 and 33). Evangelistic campaigns have been planned in Milan and Turin. New premises for Protestant services have been opened in Biella, Turin, Florence and Naples. Two new churches are to be built in Prali and San Secondo. In Turin a whole block of flats is reported to have turned to Protestantism. Ten Roman Catholic priests intend to join a Protestant church.

By contrast people in the traditionally Waldensian valleys of Northern Italy are said to be growing less enthusiastic about the Protestant faith. Services are not so well attended. Very few young people apply to enter the ministry or social service and missionary work.

E.P.S., Geneva

SWITZERLANDOld Catholics Hold Seventeenth International Congress

For the seventeenth time since the origin of their movement in 1872 Old Catholics from Europe and America met in international conference at Rheinfelden near Basle from September 19 to 22. The conference of Old Catholic bishops met at the same time.

Dr. Urs Küry, Bishop of the Old Catholic Church of Switzerland, reviewed the past activity of the quadrennial international Old Catholic congresses and

their future prospects. The congresses are not authoritative bodies for the Old Catholic movement. The conference of bishops assumes this function. However the congresses are considered to be representative of the life of their tradition and deal with ecumenical affairs and problems arising out of relationships with Protestant churches and Roman Catholic ecumenical circles.

Theme of the meeting was the role of the laity in family, church and world. Conclusions included a statement that increasing service of the Church and the growth of its influence must accompany deeper grounding of the laity in the faith of the Church. It was decided to proceed with intensified evangelism among the indifferent and conduct an Old Catholic mission toward non-Christians in close collaboration with Anglican missionary work.

Archbishop Andreas Rinkel of Utrecht underlined the basis of the Old Catholic ecumenical task as being living witness to God in Jesus Christ in accordance with the Catholic Faith as exemplified in the undivided Church of the early Christian centuries, and particularly in unity with Eastern Orthodoxy and the Anglican Communion. He declared that despite present difficulties in ecumenical conversation the Old Catholic churches must continue to participate in the World Council of Churches.

Press, radio and television widely reported the congress, which decided to set up an international Old Catholic information centre.

In the course of the meetings, attended by delegates from Switzerland, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Yugoslavia, Poland and the USA, solemn mass and vespers were celebrated daily. An Anglican service of Holy Communion was celebrated by the Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev. Kenneth Riches, as evidence of the intercommunion existing between Old Catholics and the Anglican Communion.

Representatives of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA, the Patriarchates of Moscow and Constantinople and of the World Council of Churches attended the sessions. Greetings were received from Reformed, Lutheran and autocephalous Orthodox churches. Dr. B. Spuler of Hamburg spoke on the current situation of the Eastern Orthodox churches and the Rev. M. Heinz of Zürich on trends in the Roman Catholic "Una Sancta" movement.

Dr. A.J. van de Ven of Utrecht was elected president of the Congress's standing committee, with Professor W. Küppers of Bonn as vice-president and the Rev. H. Frei as secretary. It was decided to hold the next congress in the Netherlands.

An Anglican-Old Catholic Conference between September 16 and 18 preceded the congress. Various contemporary aspects of the doctrine of the eucharist were studied in their bearing on problems of intercommunion. It was the first such conference since the conclusion of an agreement on intercommunion between the two churches in 1931 and will be followed by others. E.P.S., Geneva

POLAND

Old Catholic Bishop Reports on Visit

Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski of the Polish National Church in the United States has just visited churches in Poland, prior to attending the Quadrennial Congress of the Old Catholic churches in Rheinfelden, Switzerland, from September 19-22.

In Geneva, Bishop Grochowski, and his legal adviser, A.C.F. Kanowski of Scranton, Pennsylvania, described the opportunity of the Old Catholic Church in Poland as tremendous and said the church has more than reasonable freedom to operate. "I think we really have a chance to build a strong church in Poland", Bishop Grochowski said.

The Polish National Church, which began in Poland in 1920, has 100,000 members in 62 parishes, served by 65 priests. The mother church, founded in the United States in 1897, has about 300,000 members in the U.S. and Canada and 107 parishes.

A monthly publication, "Poslanictwo", is issued in Poland and the church there also prints its own hymnals and other church literature. The U.S. branch publishes a weekly, "Rolaboz", with a circulation of about 6,000 and "Straz", with a circulation of 18,000.

In Geneva at the same time was Bishop J. Perkala of Warsaw.

E.P.S., Geneva

YMCA/UNESCO Groups Study Atoms for Peace

A YMCA/UNESCO-sponsored study group on "Atoms for Peace" in Bangalore, India, recently arranged an exhibit that was seen by 10,000 college and high school students and more than 15,000 others. The group said it had the cooperation of scientists, industrial leaders, social workers, the British, Canadian and Russian embassies, the Atomic Energy Establishment of India and the United States Information Service. As a result of the exhibit, old study groups were expanded and new ones started and more than 5,000 new sets of study material, prepared by UNESCO, were distributed.

The YMCA/UNESCO study groups were launched at the UN Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in August, 1955, at Geneva and are now meeting in more than 20 countries.

E.P.S., Geneva

In Brief

Japan gained 75,963 Christians during 1956, according to the Japanese Christian Year Book just published in Tokyo. The gain brings to 583,589 the number of Christians in Japan. There are 322,135 Protestants, 227,063 Roman Catholics and 34,391 Eastern Orthodox.

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A Religious Press Week organised by the Religious Weekly Press Group will be held in Great Britain from October 18 to 25.

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The American Bible Society, Philippines Agency, has become the Philippine Bible House. New agency secretary is the Rev. Angel B. Taglucop, the first Filipino to hold the post.

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A new 77-frame colour filmstrip, "Assignment in Unity", is available for 20 Swiss francs from the Department of Information, World Council of Churches, 17 route de Malagnou, Geneva. The strip was produced by the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church in the USA and is subtitled, "Your Church and the World Council of Churches". Based in part on the slide set of the same title, the strip shows the history, present work and personalities of the WCC.

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A new series of booklets on evangelism, edited by Dr. D.T. Niles of Ceylon, is being published for the World Council of Churches by the United Society for Christian Literature. First of the 32-page booklets is "Resurgent Religions" by Bishop S. Kulandran of the Church of South India. Also available is "Evangelism in Latin America", an ecumenical survey by Dr. Rudolf Obermuller, professor at the Evangelical and Lutheran Faculty in Buenos Aires.

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Three books will be published as a follow-up of the North American Conference on Faith and Order held this month in Oberlin, Ohio (see EPS Nos. 34, 35). "The Nature of the Unity We Seek" will be edited by Dr. Paul S. Minear, the second volume, containing a study course for local churches based on conference discussions, will be edited by the Rev. George L. Hunt, and the third book will be a symposium including articles by ten or twelve contributors, edited by Dr. J. Robert Nelson, dean of Vanderbilt University Divinity School and former secretary of the World Council of Churches' Department of Faith and Order.

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Many Arkansas ministers have denounced the action of Governor Orval E. Faubus in calling out the National Guard to prevent racial integration in Little Rock's Central High School. At the same time, it has become known that Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hayes, who is president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was responsible for arranging the conference between the defiant governor and President Eisenhower. Since their meeting, Congressman Hayes has been reported to be in almost constant conference with the governor. The troops were ordered withdrawn on September 20. Ministers denouncing the governor's action include sixteen Little Rock clergymen; Presbyterian ministers in Huntsville, the governor's home town; and Methodist ministers attending a state-wide pastors' school.

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More than 200 persons attended a service in Macao, China, on September 2, marking the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Macao Roads of Robert Morrison, first Protestant missionary to China and Chinese scholar.

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The week of September 20 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the consecration to the episcopate of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Geoffrey Francis Fisher. Dr. Fisher's first term of episcopal office was as Bishop of Chester. He was named to his church's highest post in 1945. The archbishop was one of the first presidents of the World Council of Churches and is a member of the WCC's Central Committee.

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After three special meetings, the Consistory of the Protestant Church of Geneva has suggested that Swiss military penal law should provide alternative civilian service for bona fide conscientious objectors. The suggestion is in line with repeated approaches to the Swiss Federal government by the national Protestant Federation.

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A Roman Catholic church built in the form of a Hindu temple was recently consecrated in Bombay. The cross above the cupola and a few statues on the roof are the only indications that it is a Christian church. "The building is an expression of efforts to make external forms of church life reflect the old culture of India", says the Austrian weekly paper "Der Volksbote".

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Churches in Basle, Switzerland, have collected over 4,000 Swiss francs (approximately 1,000 dollars) to aid unemployed Christian youth in Malabar, India. The collection coincided with Basle's 2000th anniversary celebrations in late August. The gifts will be transmitted through Swiss Evangelical "Hilfswerk" and the World Council of Churches' Division of Inter-Church Aid.

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The Baptist Union of Rio de la Plata has advocated separation of church and state in Argentina. The Baptists asked for the subject to be discussed by the national constitutive assembly which is to meet shortly to revise the Argentinian Constitution of 1853, revoked by the Peron government.

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Seventy churchmen from Eastern and Western Europe have conferred at Iserlohn, Westphalia, on "The Lordship of Christ over Church and State". The meeting, designed as an encounter between representatives of larger churches and the "historic peace churches" (Quakers, Brethren, Mennonites) reviewed Christian pronouncements on war and peace. Most of the participants are active in Christian work for peace.

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In an article called "The Orthodox Church and Christian Unity" the Catholic International Press Agency, KIPA, of Fribourg (Switzerland) has said that the reunion of the "eastern Orthodox Christians" with Rome would "create a strong bulwark against Islam and Communism". The article declares that there are many signs that the Pope may succeed in bridging the schism which took place 900 years ago between the Eastern Church and Rome.

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Dr. Heinrich Held, president of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland, has died in Düsseldorf shortly before his 60th birthday. In recent years he had been a prominent advocate of ecumenical contacts between churches in East and West. He was among instigators of the "Conference of European Churches" at Liselund, Denmark, in May 1957 and a delegate at this year's Minneapolis Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation. Under the National Socialist régime in Germany, Pastor Held was active in the Confessing Church. He was the first Protestant pastor to be arrested in 1933, when he protested against the appointment of state ecclesiastical commissioners in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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The transit camp for refugees at Friedland, near Hanover, Germany, where the German Evangelical "Hilfswerk" organisation has extensive work, is to be enlarged. Transports of refugees from the eastern provinces formerly owned by Germany are reaching Friedland three times a week. Eight thousand newcomers arrive every month.

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The Rev. Wilbert Gough, pastor of the "Gilbert Memorial First Baptist" Protestant Church, risked his life to save the consecrated elements in the Roman Catholic church of St. Peter at Mount Clemens (Michigan, USA), when it caught fire. He succeeded in saving the elements just before the tower collapsed. The church was completely destroyed.

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The Rev. James P. Claypool, director of Korea Church World Service, has been elected chairman of the Korean Association of Voluntary Agencies. KAVA is made up of 54 organisations doing health, education and welfare work in Korea.

E.P.S., Geneva

